INFORMATION TO BE AVAILABLE TO HORSE INDUSTRY

BLACKSBURG - Virginia Tech's Extension Division and the Virginia Horse Council (VHC) have joined forces to offer the state's horse industry a self-help educational tool.

The tool is a catalog being assembled at Tech for distribution to Extension offices and horse industry leaders across the state, Extension animal scientist Arden N. Huff said.

Huff assembled the publication (Guideline and Catalog: A Continuing Education Program for the Virginia Horse Industry) with the help of VHC president Bill Jennings of Leesburg.

The VHC represents some 70,000 owners, including 10,000 4-H horse project members, Huff said.

The new publication catalogs the expertise of 130 horse experts who can conduct lectures and demonstrations around the state on a continuing basis. Extension agents may use the list to design clinics, short courses and seminars based on local needs and interests, Huff said.

The experts cited include trainers, farm managers, farriers, veterinarians, commercial representatives and professional horse enthusiasts. Topics they address range from veterinary and financial to agricultural and managerial.

Persons interested in upcoming educational horse programs should contact their local Virginia Tech Extension offices for details.

The first foam rubber was made in an ordinary food mixer in 1929.

To Sponsor Career Awareness Day

The Greater Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce sponsoring Career Awareness Day Wednesday, Dec. 28, will have a record number of participating firms and is expected to attract more than 200 college students.

G L C C's Career Opportunities Task Force will meet at 4 p.m. Dec. 14 to map final plans for the 11th annual career awareness event.

Open to college juniors and seniors who live in the area but go to school elsewhere, Career Awareness Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 28 in the cafeteria of E. C. Glass High School.

Daniel F. Stilling, task force chairman, said the purpose of the event is to help the college students become better acquainted with various career opportunities available in the Lynchburg area.

Most college students will be home for the Christmas holidays when the event is held, Stilling noted.

Thomas N. Waller, director of economic programs for the chamber, said 25 firms will be participating.

They are J. C. Penny Co., U. S. Marines, U. S Navy, United Virginia, Bank, Virginia Fibre, Virginia Employment Commission, Wiley & Wilson, National Mutural Insurance, Owens-Illinois, Montague-Betts, Meredith/Burda,Lynchburg Training School & Hospital,Leggetts, Limitorque, Lynchburg Board of Realtors, Lynchburg Foundry, Lynchburg Public Schools, Illinois Tool Works, General Electric, C. B. Fleet Co., First & Merchants National Bank, Fidelity American Bank, City of Lynchburg, Babcock & Wilcox Co. and Appalachian Power Co.

MRS. MARTIN'S 4/H CLUB

On Dec. 15, 1977 Mr. Sweet and Mr. Goldman met with Mrs. Martin's 5th Grade Class. Brian Wright led the American Pledge and Carl Bane led the 4-H pledge. The recreation leaders led us in a song and two games.

Our secretary read the minutes then Mr. Sweet gave the Share-the-Fun participants their certificate. They were Carl Bane, Cheryl Matthews and Gina McCormick. Then he gave everyone who wanted one an order blank for pine seedlings.

On Feb. 1st we will hold our public speaking contest. Mr. Sweet told us that he has two new projects called "Dairy Foods and Horse Selection". Then he showed slides on 4-H treasures. After that the meeting was adjourned. Merry Christmas.

Gina McCormick, Reporter

CARE FOR BOXWOOD PLANTS

BLACKSBURG - B ox wood plants need to be checked to see whether they have become so compact that very little light and air reaches the center of the crown, reminded Albert S. Beecher, Virginia Tech Extension ornamental horticulture specialist.

If little light and air is reaching the center the interior shoots may die and the overall plant is weakened. Pruning or plucking some of the inner branches will help to open the plant to admit light to the interior, he recommended, and this will encourage a green center where there will be green leaves all the way up the stem.

"If you do not do some of this annual thinning or plucking even though the plants are growing exuberantly, you are asking for trouble in the future," he cautioned. Beecher also is professor of horticulture at Virginia Tech.

"Check to see whether dead leaves have accumulated inside the boxwood," he continued.

"At least once a year clean out leaves or twigs that have accumulated in the center. Without such cleaning, fungus growth on leaves and twigs is promoted; the development of interior shoots is suppressed; and sometimes, aerial root development along the branches is induced."

If it has been dry in the area, be sure to water the boxwood plants so they will not enter the winter period on the dry side. After applying water, add a mulch to help conserve soil moisture, he said.

There precautions will help insure that the boxwoods will continue to thrive.

You Can Save Energy With Automatic Dishwasher

BLACKSBURG - Using an automatic dishwasher doesn't mean wasting a lot of energy or water if the dishwaster is used properly.

"In fact, when used correctly, a dishwasher can use less water than washing dishes by hand," said Janice Woodard, Virginia Tech Extension home management specialist.

Run the dishwasher only when there is a full load, she recommended. It take just as much water to run the washer empty as full, so fill it up each time.

Load the dishwasher properly, too, she continued. When it is loaded correctly, the water circulates better for more effective cleaning. Improper loading sometimes means that the dishes need to be re-washed, by hand, which uses more human energy as well as electrical energy and water.

One portion of the dishwashing task that usually can be eliminated is the pre-rinse of dishes before loading the machine, said Woodard, who also is an assistant professor of management, housing and family development at the Univiersity.

"With continued mechanical improvement in machines and technological improvements in detergents, less and less pre-rinsing is needed, saving the extra work and using less water to get the job done."

For those individuals buying a new dishwaster, Woodard suggested that they pay careful attention to the water-saving and energy-saving feaiturs that are part of the newer models.

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Greetings
May the joys of this Christmas season rekindle cherished memories, and fill your heart with great happiness.
Laugenia P. Hare

Capitol Comments

BY DAN DANIELS

WASHINGTON - Congressman is presently in its annual rush with the calendar - trying its best to adjourn for the year. Expectations that new rules changes and other innovations would avoid the usual December confusion this year ran into the problems of energy and abortion. Members felt the new strategies worked out by the Leadership, including better scheduling of legislation, might do this year what other experiments in the past have been unable to accomplish, but it hasn't worked out that way.

The main body of Congress has been waiting for the past several weeks while Conference committees grind out what they hope will be acceptable compromises on the Labor - HEW Appropriations Bill, the massive energy legislation, Social Security reform and several other matters. At this writing, no one seems to know with assurance what will happen. However, one way or another, the First Session of the 95th Congress will go out of business on January 3.

Unlike many of the state legislatures, most of the business of Congress is concluded long before the deadline, but always there seems to be one or two measures over which we agonize at the eleventh hour. In recent years, it has been Foreign Aid, the Sugar Bill the Farm Bill or some issue which is determined to be of enough significance to prolong the session. Yet, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, and its predecessor, prescribed that "unless otherwise provided by the Congress, the Senate and House shall adjourn not later than July 31 of each year, or in the case of non-election years, take a 30-day recess in August. The provision shall not apply "if a state of war exists pursuant to a declaration of war by the Congress". Only once in the past 25 years has the deadline been met, although in the 1950s it came close, on August 2 and 3.

Marathon sessions, as we know them today, are the result of a greatly increased workload, more public interest (which affects the length of committee hearings), rapidly changing events - and some force of habit. Calendar deadlines, which require that certain things be done by specific times, also play a part. The first Congress, which convened on March 4, 1789, met until Sept. 29, but little was done in the hot Washington summer. Most of the earlier Congresses tended to meet sporadically but in a rather continuous manner, so long as there was business to do. Travel problems made it imperative that Members not be required to go back and forth, the theory being that it was as much the responsibility of Congressmen to be back in their districts part of the time as to be legislating.

Congressional Quarterly, in listing the 27 longest sessions of Congress, shows a 302-day session in 1949-50; a 345-day session in 1867-68; and sessions running 302 and 321 days in the period from 1887 to 1889. Most of the long sessions, however, have come since World War II. The longest possible session - 366 days - ran from Jan. 3, 1940 to Jan. 3, 1941 and after the war started, Congress met almost continuously until 1945. Until the 20th Amendment was adopted in the early days of the New Deal, members of the House and Senate took office on March 4th and sessions of Congress convened in the first week in December. The amendment sought to end the problems created every two years - in the period from the November election until March - when defeated members were considered "Lame Ducks". The so-called "third sessions" were then dispensed with - and the Congressional calendar underwent a drastic revision.

Since the predecessors to the **Congressional Record** are not very explicit on the point, it is not abundantly clear how long the average daily sessions of Congress ran, but they were nowhere as lengthy as today. However, the end product can hardly be measured by either the shortness or length of time given to consideraiton. One suspects that better legislation probably results from less-pressured deliberations, but even that criteria might not stand the test of comparision. Congres somehow always seems to get the job done in some fashion. The difficulty with the period from Thanksgiving on is the uncertainty of it all. Congressmen are afraid to make commitments on their time - but may well find that they could have done so, simply because they spend time waiting for something to happen. Schedules become impossible operations and frustration is often the most predictable result.

Committees of the Congress continue to consider the problem and one can only hope that some way will be found to avoid the present dilemma. Chances are, however, that no matter how much planning is done, no way will ever be found to put a lid on unforeseen occurences - and those, after all, continue to provide the biggest problem. We must keep trying.

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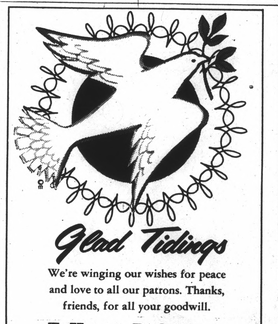

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Electro Ag '78 Set January 18 - 19

RICHMOND - Whether you're into broilers, eggs or turkeys, if you're into poultry Electro Ag '78 has something to offer you when it comes to the state fairgrounds Jan. 18-19.

Electro Ag. '78 is Virginia's fifth Agricultural Materials Handling Exposition sponsored by the Virginia Farm and Home Electrification Council.

A. J. Lambert, expo publicity chairman, said Electro Ag. '78 is part of the council's continuing education program on efficient use of electricity in the home and on the farm.

The council, supported by both private and public utilities across Virginia, is based at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg where Lambert is an Extension agricultural engineer.

Lambert said the two-day exposition will exhibit, demonstrate and describe the most up-to-date equipment for saving labor and energy and increasing farm production efficiency. Poultrymen, for example, can see the latest in automatic feeding systems, mechanical ventilation, and egg gathering equipment.

Virginia's poultry industry (including eggs, broilers and turkeys) generates about $333 million annually to the state's economy, a Tech department of agricultural economics study reported.

Tree-Trimming Tips

When trimming your Christmas tree always work with the bulbs lighted. To highlight your tree's shape, it is best to purchase bulbs that have cords the same colors as branches and place lights themselves directly on branch ends.

FLAVOR OF BACON MAY BE AT STAKE

BLACKSBURG - The flavor of bacon may be at stake in the nitrate-nitrite controversy.

Nitrate and nitrite are important curing ingredients used in bacon and other meats to improve flavor, add color and prevent botulism. But both nitrate and nitrite have been indirectly linked to cancer in laboratory animals, causing the federal government to push for stricter controls.

Bacon processors who use nitrite in curing have until Jan. 16 to prove their curing ingredients don't add cancer-causing agents. They must submit test data to the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to decide whether or not to use nitrite in cured meats.

J. David Baldock, Extension food technologist at Virginia Tech, said the burden of proof is on industry to show that nitrites are safe and necessary. Two-thirds of all pork goes into cured products using nitrite, such as bacon, franks, hams and bologna. Baldock said the industry must analyze numerous meat samples quickly to meet the USDA deadline.

To assist dry-cure processors, Virginia Tech conducted an $18,000 industry - supported nitrate - nitrite study showing that under laboratory conditions smaller than usual levels of nitrate and nitrite can cure country hams safely and tastefully.

Tech researchers treated 48 hams in four groups with four different cures, finding both nitrate and nitrite necessary for proper meat flavor and color. But the group with the least nitrate and nitrite had good color, the best flavor and was still protected from botulism. Baldock said that these tests were conducted in a controlled environment and that results could vary under everyday commercial conditions. But he said further in-plant testing will make it possible to find the lowest levels at which nitrate and nitrite are effective without the threat of cancer - causing agents.

A. A. MEETING TUESDAYS, 8:00 P.M. ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Families, friends, neighbors gather to share the warmth and blessings of Christmas. We greet our friends and say thanks to all.
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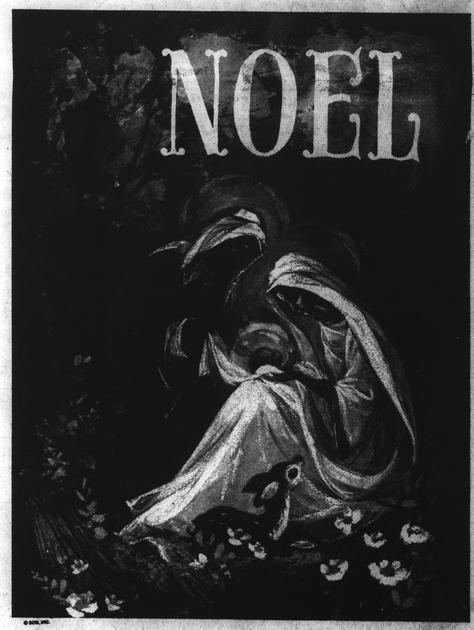

A Holy Christmas to Everyone. We hope that remembering the true meaning of Christmas will bring you Peace and Happiness as you rejoice in the Birth of Our Saviour.
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